IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 21, 23, 27-28 and 30 without projudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend Claims 24 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, as follows:

- 1-23 (Canceled)
- 24. (Currently Amended) The protein of Claim 21, wherein said protein comprises An isolated Dirofilaria immitis protein comprising an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4.
 - 25-30 (Canceled)
 - 31. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 27, wherein each protein comprises A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated *Directilaria immitis* protein comprising an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4.

 32-36 (Canceled).

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 21, 23, 27-28 and 30 without projudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend Claims 24 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, as follows:

1-23 (Canceled)

1. (Currently Amended) The pretein-of-Claim 21, wherein said protein comprises Δu isolated Dirofilaria invality protein comprising onthe amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4.

25-30 (Canceled)

(Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 27, wherein said protein comprises

A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated Dirofilaria immitts protein

comprising anthe amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:4.

32-36 (Canceled).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 15, 2004

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